

1. (Amended) A method for ensuring the operation of signaling channels in a V5 interface between a local exchange and an access node, the interface comprising:

reconfiguring V5 interface data in an interface composition having at least two signaling channels; and

ensuring active operation of protected signaling channels when starting a V5 interface, wherein the protected signaling channels are stated on at least one of signaling channels defined in a new interface composition, and on signaling channels to which the protected signaling channels were transferred in a protection switch-over.


REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to correct an error which occurred in the prosecution of the application leading to the issuance of U.S. Patent No. 6,278,688 B1. During the prosecution, the Examiner objected to the use of the limitation “and/or”, where that limitation was amended in claim 1, reintroduced as claim 6, to recite simply “and”. This change resulted in the patentee claiming less than they had a right to, thereby partially rendering inoperative the issued patent. The above change reintroduces the scope of the originally filed claim in a format that does not introduce potential uncertainty alleged in the former as filed claim. Given that claim 1, nor later claim 6, was not rejected over prior art, patentee respectfully asserts that the claims as presently recited are allowable over prior art and patentee

respectfully requests that the present application be allowed to reissue. No new matter has been added, nor did the error arise without deceptive intent on the part of the applicants.

In the event that there are any fees due with respect to the filing of this paper, please charge Counsel's Deposit Account No. 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure: Marked-up Copy of Amended Claim